

Message Text

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----- 052167 /63

P 180005Z DEC 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 306322

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CVIS, RO

SUBJECT: ONT VISA PROPOSAL

REFS: BUCHAREST 7315; BUCHAREST 6775; BUCHAREST 6523

1. DEPARTMENT SHARES EMBASSY'S VIEW (REF C) THAT ACCEPT-
ANCE OF ONT VISA PROPOSAL COULD BE USED BY GOR TO FURTHER
ISOLATE ROMANIAN CITIZENRY FROM EMBASSY. FOR THIS REASON,
WE DO NOT WISH TO ENCOURAGE THIS PROPOSAL. HOWEVER, WE DO
NOT HAVE COMPELLING GROUNDS ON WHICH TO REFUSE TO ACCEPT
VISA APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED THROUGH ONT IF ROMANIANS
PERSIST. BEST WE CAN DO IS TO INSIST THAT INA REQUIRES
CONSULAR OFFICER TO RETAIN RIGHT TO PERSONAL INTERVIEW IN
ALL CASES, REGARDLESS OF CHANNEL THROUGH WHICH APPLICATION
IS SUBMITTED.

2. THEREFORE, IF BADESCU STRONGLY PUSHES THIS PROPOSAL AT
YOUR NEXT MEETING, YOU MAY AGREE THAT EMBASSY WILL ACCEPT
VISA APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED THROUGH ONT. YOU SHOULD MAKE
CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT THIS DOES NOT RPT NOT IMPLY THAT WE
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ARE WAIVING RIGHT TO REQUEST PERSONAL APPEARANCE. VISA
APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED SUFFICIENTLY IN ADVANCE
TO ALLOW TIME FOR AN INTERVIEW, SHOULD THIS PROVE NECESSARY.

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YOU SHOULD ALSO EXPRESS HOPE THAT THIS NEW ARRANGEMENT
WOULD NOT MEAN THAT ROMANIANS WOULD BE DISCOURAGED FROM
DISCUSSING VISA MATTERS OR MAKING VISA APPLICATIONS
DIRECTLY WITH EMBASSY, SHOULD THEY WISH TO DO SO.

3. WE DO NOT SEE MERIT IN ATTEMPTING TO LIMIT THIS
ARRANGEMENT TO COVER ONLY PERSONS LIVING OUTSIDE
BUCHAREST OR FALLING WITHIN A CERTAIN AGE GROUP, SINCE
THIS WOULD IMPLY THAT CONSULAR OFFICER CAN WAIVE INTER-
VIEW IN SOME CASES EVEN BEFORE REVIEWING APPLICATION.
WE THEREFORE FAVOR ALTERNATIVE C (PARA 6, BUCHAREST 6523).

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